

Appl. No. 10/633,150
Amdt. Dated Jun. 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Mar. 2, 2004

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully appreciates the allowance of claims 9-15.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Simmel (US 6,540,542).

Regarding amended claim 1, a cable connector assembly defined therein comprises a housing having a mating face, an outer side face, a receiving space defined in the mating face, a plurality of passageways communicating with the receiving space, and a guiding post formed on the outer face and extending along the outer face in a mating direction of the housing. A plurality of contacts are received in the passageways of the housing. A cable electrically connects with the contacts. An enclosure encloses the housing, the contacts, and the cable. The enclosure is formed with a positioning post on an outer side face thereof and extending in the mating direction of the housing.

Referring to FIGS. 1-4 of Simmel, a connector assembly 10 disclosed therein comprises an inner and an outer housings 14, 12, a plurality of terminals 23 mounted in the inner housing 14, and a latching clip 36. The inner housing includes a mating end 20 and a terminating end 22. The inner housing 14 defines a pair of rear channels 26 and a pair of front channels 30 in a top surface 28 thereof. The front channels 30 have enlarged latching areas 32 defined by opposite side walls 34. The latching clip 36 includes a main flat body 38 having a rear and a front cross

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portions 40, 42, a pair of mounting flanges 44 press-fitted in the rear channels 26 of the inner housing 14, a pair of locating portions 50 received in the front channels 30 of the inner housing 14, a pair of latch arms 48 projecting forwardly from the pair of locating portions 50 and accommodated in the enlarged latching areas 32 of the front channels 30, and a cable clamping portion 46. Each of the latch arm 48 is formed with a latch plate 52 having a latch aperture 54 for engaging with a corresponding latch hook 74 of the complementary connector 62.

Examiner alleged that the inner housing 14 of the connector assembly 10 disclosed in Simmel is formed with a guiding post 34 extending along the outer face in a mating direction of the inner housing 14, and that the enclosure (formed by the combination of the outer housing 12 and the latching clip 36) is formed with a positioning post 48 on an outer side wall 50 thereof and extending in the mating direction of the inner housing 14.

In fact, however, the elements 34 of the inner housing 14 are side walls to define enlarged latching areas 32 for accommodating latch arms 48 of the latching clip 36. In addition, the elements 48 of the latching clip 36 are latch arms having latch apertures for engaging with corresponding hooks of the complementary connector.

Differently, the guiding post and the positioning post defined in claim 1 of the present invention are respectively formed on the outer faces of the housing and the enclosure and are used to be interferentially received in a corresponding groove of the complementary connector. So, it can be seen that the side walls 34 and the latch arms 48 disclosed in Simmel are respectively different from the guiding post of the housing and positioning post of the enclosure, both clearly defined in claim 1 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Simmel.

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Claims 2-7 are also believed to be patentable since they depend from claim 1, either directly or indirectly.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simmel in view of Wagner (US 6,402,552).

Claim 8 depending from claim 1 further recites that the cable extends in a direction which is perpendicular to the mating direction of the cable connector assembly.

As mentioned above, Simmel does not disclose the guiding post and the positioning post, both of which are defined in claim 1 of the present invention. Wagner also does not disclose them. So, combining Simmel with Wagner can NOT obtain the subject matter as defined in claim 8 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 8 is believed to be patentable over Simmel in view of Wagner.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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By 
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